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Agriculture Local #2, UFWA

May 1, 1939

PERSONNEL OFFICE TO SURVEY JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Union action to win equal job opportunities for women received encouragement last week when Personnel Director Hendrickson said he is conducting a survey of women employed in the Department and whether they are discriminated against in the higher brackets.

The survey will include an enumeration of qualified women and men applicants for positions and an enumeration of the proportions of each sex which actually receive appointments.

The Union has recommended that the present policy whereby any hiring officer may arbitrarily disqualify women applicants should be replaced by a policy which would open all jobs to both sexes except in cases where satisfactory proof is offered that the sex of the applicant is an important element of qualification.

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FARM SECURITY HEAD SPEAKS AT UNION FORUM

W. W. Alexander, Administrator of the Farm Security Administration, spoke on "Restoring Farm Security" at the third Union-sponsored forum on "The Farmer is Our Boss."

The forum series will continue with Donald Montgomery, Consumers Counsel, speaking on "The Farmer Goes To Town" on Monday, May 1. On Monday, May 15, a panel discussion of personnel relations within the Department will take place. Roy Hendrickson, Director of Personnel, Earl Loveridge, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service and Jacob Baker, head of the UFWA will take part.

Forums start at 4:40 and are held in the So Bldg Auditorium.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 8, 8 p m
532 - 17 St. N. W.

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THE WAGNER ACT PROTECTS US, TOO

Reactionary business interests are sniping at the Wagner Labor Relations Act. They are seeking to embalm the Act on the pretext of amending it and they would like to cripple the National Labor Relations Board.

What is the stake of Government workers in this Act? Why should they defend it?

First, we realize that Government workers can only improve their position with the support of a powerful labor movement. The Wagner Act, by clearing away the legal barriers to organization by workers in private industry has been a factor in the rebirth of the American Labor movement. It has thus made it possible for these workers to obtain higher wages and better working conditions. And standards of wages and working conditions in the

Government are in the long run dependent upon standards achieved in private industry.

Second, the Wagner Act, despite the fact that it supposedly applies only to private industry, has been the most important single factor in the gains the UFWA has won. Recognition for trade union activity in the Federal Government has been won in agency after agency on just one argument: The Wagner Act gives employees in private industry the right to organize and the Government cannot do any less for its employees.

The Wagner Act has thus helped win pay raises for us, has helped to get employees reinstated, has helped win reclassifications, promotions agreements, has helped to get us everything we have, you might say.

This is why the Wagner Act was worth fighting for in the first place. This is why it is worth defending now.

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PROS AND CONS of the efficiency rating system were discussed at the last meeting of Local 2. Marcus Gordon of the Office of Personnel laid the basis for the discussion by giving a very excellent account of how the present system operates.

UNION ACTION MAY BRING ABOUT PARKING SPACE REFORM

A fairer system of allocating the 675 free parking spaces in the courts may be set up in the near future according to a report of Union representatives who conferred last week with Mr. Thatcher who has charge of their distribution.

The Union's proposal that length of service be made the primary basis for the allocation of spaces to employes was discussed with Mr. Thatcher who said that action would be taken as soon as his office was able to complete an investigation of the entire problem.

PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES SOUGHT IN FOOD AND DRUG

Impending expansion of the Food and Drug Administration, due to the passage of the law on cosmetics, should result in promotions for a number of qualified employes of this division, if Union action on their behalf is successful.

It is planned to have employes of the division submit their qualifications to the Union's Adjustment Committee which will present them to the Chief personnel officer with a request that these employes should receive serious consideration when filling new jobs.

REVAMPING OF RATING PROCEDURES ASKED BY COMMITTEE

A special committee set up by the Office of Personnel to investigate efficiency ratings in the Farm Security Administration has issued a report recommending "an extensive revamping of the rating procedures within the Government service."

The Committee, although its investigation completely substantiated the Union's main contention that ratings issued in Farm Security were well below the gen-

eral level of the Department, nevertheless found that the fault lay not so much with FSA as with the general failure of the efficiency rating system as practiced throughout the Department.

The report pointed out the hardships which might result in cases where employes of FSA sought transfer to other Bureaus whose standards for rating were lower than FSA standards.

PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION SPEAKS BEFORE LOCAL 2

John Vesecky, president of the National Farmers' Union, attended a meeting of Local 2 last week and explained what his organization was doing.

The Farmers' Union was started among the poor farmers of Texas 36 years ago, he pointed out, and today it is probably the most progressive organization of farmers in the country.

The members of the Farmers' Union in a number of states are working with labor unions and other organizations of city consumers in an effort to solve their problems through joint effort. The main task, he explained was to raise the income of both farm and city workers so that each group would be able to purchase the products made by the other.

HERE AND THERE WITH LOCAL 2

THERE SEEMS TO BE unanimity of opinion that the Spring Picnic, which Local 2 and the Federal Workers' School held last week, was a great success. The 100 odd picnickers who were present enjoyed themselves no end and many are already asking the Entertainment Committee to arrange another.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF LOCAL 2 has taken the fatal leap - its George Brinkman of AAA this time. He didn't tell us about it until he came back from his honeymoon. Sly devil, George!

BEFORE IT GETS TOO HOT, The Union will ask the Administration to establish a definite policy for excusing employes who work in buildings which are not air cooled. Such policies have already been put into effect in other Governmental agencies.

A LETTER FROM MR. HENDRICKSON explains that until the Civil Service Commission acts favorably on his request for a six months probationary period for positions with salaries under \$2,000, the probationary period for such positions will remain a full year. He adds that "we have every hope that the Commission will grant our request."

MEMBERSHIP BLANK

NAME _____

ROOM _____ PHONE _____

Send by chain envelope
to John A. Schricker, Room 3630,
South Building.

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